

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID,BY,US

SUBJECT: US BILATERAL AID TOBURUNDI: INTEGRATED RURAL
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

REF: (A) BUJUMBURA 648; (B) BUJUMBURA 664

1. AS PART OF HIS CONSULTATION, AMBASSADOR MARK CALLED ON A
NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO INFORM THEM OF THE POLICY
DECISION TO IMPLEMENT A US BILATERAL AID PROGRAM IN BURUNDI.
NONE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL REPS WITH WHOM HE MET EXPRESSED
ANY OPPOSITION TO THE PROGRAM. THE AMBASSADOR WILL CONTINUE
HIS CONTACTS WITH CONGRESS UPON RETURNING TO WASHINGTON THE
FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER.

2. THE DEPARTMENT AND AID AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR MARK'S
SUGGESTION THAT, WITH GRB'S CONCURRENCE, THE FIRST AID-
SPONSORED PROJECT BE A INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT
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PROJECT (IRDP) FOR THEMUYINGA PROVINCE.IN VIEW OF GRB'S
INTEREST, AS POINTED OUT IN PARAGRAPH 5 REFTEL B, GRB
SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL FOR THE
MUYINGA IRDP WHICH HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO AID FOR

CONSIDERATION. THE FOLLOWING IS THE DRAFT TEXT OF PROJECT IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT (PID) PREPARED BY AMBASSADOR MARK IN CONSULTATION WITH AID:
BURUNDI IS ONE OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD

WITH AN AVERAGE PER CAPITA GNP OF ABOUT DOLLARS 80 PER YEAR. THE POPULATION OF 4,000,000 IS CROWDED INTO A SMALL AREA (UNDER 11,000 SQUARE MILES) AND AVERAGES OVER 350 PERSONS PER SQUARE MILE; IT IS GROWING AT A RATE OF ABOUT 2.4 PERCENT PER ANNUM. OVER 90 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION IS ENGAGED IN SUBSISTENCE AGRICULTURE. THERE IS LITTLE INDUSTRY, AND WELL OVER 80 PERCENT OF BURUNDI'S EXPORT :AR-NGS COME FROM SALES OF COFFEE. ALTHOUGH MAJOR DEPOSITS OF NICKEL HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED, THEY ARE, AT BEST A DECADE AWAY FROM EXPLOITATION.

IN RECENT YEARS, FOOD PRODUCTION HAS NOT GROWN APACE WITH THE INCREASE IN POPULATION, AND THE SITUATION IS WORSENING AS PRESSURES ON THE LAND FORCE UNSUITABLE ACREAGE INTO CULTIVATION, ADD TO THE SPREAD OF EROSION, DEplete ALREADY POOR QUALITY TOPSOILS, AND NULLIFY EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FARMING PRACTICES. THE DECLINE IN YIELDS CANNOT BE COUNTER-BALANCED BY BRINGING NEW LANDS INTO PRODUCTION, SINCE THE QUANTITY OF SUCH LANDS IS QUITE LIMITED, AND SINCE THEIR TOTAL CULTIVATION EVEN IF POSSIBLE, COULD AT MOST SERVE AS A SHORT-TERM PALLIATIVE. AS A RESULT, OBSERVERS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT ARE NOW PREDICTING A GRAVE CRISIS IN FOOD SUPPLY WITHIN 8 TO 12 YEARS.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE PRIORITY NEED IS TO HELP THE RURAL POPULATION TO PRODUCE MORE FOOD ON THE LAND ALREADY AVAILABLE. SUCH A GROWTH IN OUTPUT WOULD NOT ONLY IMPROVE THE NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS OF THE PEASANTS THEMSELVES, BUT WOULD ALSO FURNISH A SURPLUS FOR SALE TO THE SMALL NON-FARM ELEMENT OF THE COUNTRY. THE ATTAINMENT OF THIS OBJECTIVE WILL REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE, NOT ONLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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IN FARMING TECHNIQUES AND AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES, BUT ALSO IN THE PATTERN OF RURAL ORGANIZATION AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY. TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, AN INCREASE IN YIELDS AND, HENCE, IN TOTAL FOOD OUTPUT WILL CALL FOR THE USE OF IMPROVED SEEDS, BETTER PLANTING METHODS, THE APPLICATION OF FERTILIZERS ON A LARGE SCALE, ENHANCED WATER AVAILABILITY IN SOME AREAS, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MARKETING SYSTEM FOR FARM PRODUCE, A REGULAR SUPPLY OF COMMODITIES NEEDED AS INPUTS TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND GENEAL WORK TOWARD BUILDING UP COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND COOPERATIVE EFFORT

SINCE BURUNDI'S INDEPENDENCE IN 1962, THERE HAS BEEN

SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE BY DONORS, PREDOMINANTLY FROM WESTERN EUROPE, FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, THE GREAT BULK OF THIS ASSISTANCE HAS GONE TO EXPORT CROPS, SUCH AS COFFEE, TEA, AND COTTON, WITH SUGAR SOON TO FOLLOW SUIT. EXCEPT FOR A NUMBER OF ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL

PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE AID FOR FOOD PRODUCTION, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOME RESEARCH WORK AT VARIOUS EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS. OF THE SMALL AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO FOOD PRODUCTION, VIRTUALLY NONE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY, WHERE FOOD OUTPUT PROBLEMS, OWING TO POOR SOILS AND LESS RAINFALL, ARE ESPECIALLY KNOTTY TO RESOLVE.

MUYINGA IS ONE OF TWO PROVINCES IN THIS RELATIVELY DISTANT REGION. IN THE MUYINGA DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE, WHICH INCLUDES THE CAPITAL TOWN, THERE ARE PERHAPS 150,000 TO 200,000 PEOPLE ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE. IN SOME OF THE HIGHER ALTITUDE AREAS, FARMING IS WELL ESTABLISHED AND PEASANTS CAN EKE OUT A LIVELIHOOD. IN THE LOWER PLATEAU AND VALLEY AREAS, MUCH LAND REMAINS UNTILLED SCRUB, EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONAL SLASH AND BURN CULTIVATION. CATTLE GRAZING IS FAIRLY EXTENSIVE THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT.

GOVERNOR BARAHINDUKA OF MUYINGA PROVINCE IS THE ONLY PROVINCIAL CHIEF (OUT OF EIGHT) IN BURUNDI WHO IS A TRAINED AGRONOMIST. HE HAS USED HIS ENERGY AND SKILLS TO DO WHAT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE WITH VERY LIMITED RESOURCES TO IMPROVE THE FARMER'S LIFE AND AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN HIS REGION.

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HE HAS BEGUN TO INTRODUCE SOME NEW CROPS, SUCH AS PEANUTS AND SOYBEANS. HE HAS CONSTRUCTED A FEW, CONSOLIDATED VILLAGES TO HOUSE PEASANT FAMILIES WHO OTHERWISE LIVE IN ISOLATED HUTS SCATTERED UP AND DOWN HILLSIDES, AND THESE VILLAGES HAVE SUCH ELEMENTARY AMENITIES AS A SAFE WATER SUPPLY AND A PRIMARY SCHOOL. AT THE SAME TIME, HE HAS TRIED TO IMPROVE LAND USE BY CREATING CONSOLIDATED FIELDS ON THE ACREAGE FREED FOR EXPLOITATION BY THE RELOCATION OF PEASANT FAMILIES FROM HILLSIDES TO THE NEW VILLAGES. TO IMPROVE CATTLE CARE, THE GOVERNOR HAS ALSO PROMOTED THE CONSTRUCTION OF STABLES IN NUMEROUS ZONES OF THE PROVINCE TO MAKE POSSIBLE LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS AND TO FACILITATE MANURE COLLECTION FOR USE AS FERTILIZER.

THE GOVERNOR'S EFFORT IS BEING HANDICAPPED BY A LACK OF TRAINED MANPOWER, BY THE ABSENCE OF A SELECTED SEED PROGRAM, BY POOR OPERATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, BY INADEQUATE GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF MODERN FARMING TECHNIQUES AND BY A SHORTAGE OF CAPITAL FOR OPENING UP UNTILLED SAVANNA LANDS, FOR BUILDING IRRIGATION WORKS, AND FOR

IMPORTING CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS. MOST OF THESE DEFICIENCIES IT IS HOPED, COULD BE OVERCOME BY AN AMERICAN ASSISTANCE PROJECT TO PROMOTE INTEGRATED RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE MUYINGA AREA, AS A COMPLEMENT TO THE ONGOING LOCAL SELF-HELP ACTIVITIES.

THE U.S PROJECT WOULD TRY:

1) TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR OPTIMAL USE OF THE LAND IN TERMS OF AVAILABLE CROPS - BEANS, SORGHUM, SOYA, CORN, PEANUTS - AND IN TERMS OF FARMING TECHNIQUES THAT MIGHT BE APPLIED;

2) TO IMPORT AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO PROMOTE THE LOCAL PRODUCTION OF SELECTED SEEDS OF THE CROPS CONCERNED;

3) TO BUILD UP THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES TO SPREAD KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF IMPROVED FARMING TECHNIQUES SUITABLE TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE AREA;

4) TO PLAN FOR IMPROVED WATER STORAGE AND IRRIGATION FACILITIES IN THE PROJECT AREA, AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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CERTAIN CAPITAL INPUTS IN THIS SECTOR;

5) TO IMPROVE THE PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTION OF MANURE FROM LOCAL CATTLE FOR FERTILIZER USE, AS WELL AS TO IMPORT QUANTITIES OF FERTILIZER FOR DEMONSTRATION AND INCENTIVE PURPOSES;

6) TO ASSIST IN THE RESETTLEMENT OF PEASANT FAMILIES FROM OVERCROWDED REGIONS OF BURUNDI ON PREVIOUSLY UNTILLED LAND IN THE MUYINGA AREA WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR USE BY THE PROJECT; AND

7) TO CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SMALL MODEL FARM IN THE AREA TO ENCOURAGE BETTER FARMING PRACTICES BY PEASANTS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS ALIKE, AS WELL AS TO FACILITATE VISITS BY PEOPLE FROM OTHER PARTS OF BURUNDI ENJOYING SIMILAR CLIMATIC AND LAND CONDITIONS.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT OTHER FOREIGN DONORS ARE PURSUING OTHER PROJECTS IN THE MUYINGA AREA WHICH WOULD COMPLEMENT U.S. AID. THUS, THE WORLD BANK IS FINANCING THE CONSTRUCTION THROUGHOUT BURUNDI, INCLUDING MUYINGA, OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTERS, WITH A FOCUS ON PRIMARY SCHOOLS. THE WEST GERMANS' TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS PLANNING THE EARLY CONSTRUCTION OF A SMALL ELECTRICITY GENERATING INSTALLATION AND OF A TOWN WATER SUPPLY IN MUYINGA CITY, THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. THE FRENCH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS CONTRIBUTING MEDICAL PERSONNEL

AND MONEY TO UPGRADE THE PLANT AND PATIENT CARE
POSSIBILITIES AT THE HOSPITAL IN MUYINGA TOWN, WHICH
SERVES THE WHOLE AREA. THE GOVERNOR HAS HIMSELF MUCH
IMPROVED ACCESS ROADS (FOR JEEPS) TO HILLSIDES IN 'IS
AREA. ROAD CONNECTIONS TO THE REST OF BURUNDI ARE ROUGH
BUT ADEQUATE.

THE CONTEMPLATED AMERICAN ASSISTANCE PROJECT FOR

INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE CARRIED OVER AVER A
4 OR 5 YEAR PERIOD. THE TOTAL COST WOULD RUN BETWEEN
DOLLARS 4,000,000 AND DOLLARS 5,000,000. TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE WOULD COST ABOUT DOLLARS 1,000,000,
CONSULTANTS DOLLARS 600,000, MISCELLANEOUS COMMODITIES
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DOLLARS 1,500,000, AND PARTICIPANT TRAINING DOLLARS
300,000. TO THIS SUBTOTAL OF DOLLARS 3,400,000 SHOULD
BE ADDED AT LEAST DOLLARS 600,000 FOR CONTINGENCIES,
INFLATION AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES FOR A TOTAL OF
DOLLARS 4,000,000. THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE
PROJECT TO DOLLARS 5,000,000 WOULD DEPEND ON THE
RESULTS OBTAINED DURING THE FIRST YEAR OR TWO AFTER ITS
INITIATION, EITHER LATE IN FY 1977 OR IN FY 1978.

DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT. HABIB

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